

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1000

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: TECH, SEDU, PARM, MNUC, LY, US

SUBJ: LIBYAN STUDENTS IN US

REF: A. STATE 178625, B. TRIPOLI A-5 OF FEB 26, 1976.

1. WE FEEL THAT REF. B ESTIMATE OF 2,000 LIBYAN STUDENTS IN US IS STILL CORRECT. BULK OF LIBYAN STUDENTS ARE IN MIDWEST, FAR WEST, AND SOUTH AT SCHOOLS SUCH AS UNIV. OF COLORADO, COLORADO STATE, UNIV. OF KANSAS, BALL STATE, TENNESSEE TECH. UNIV., LOUISIANA STATE UNIV., PORTLAND STATE, OREGON STATE, AND UCLA. NEARLY ALL BEGIN US STUDY WITH ONE YEAR OF ENGLISH, FREQUENTLY AT AN ELS CENTER, BEFORE MOVING ON TO A UNIVERSITY. TRANSFERS, USUALLY TO LESS COMPETITIVE SCHOOLS, ARE NOT UNCOMMON.

2. LIBYANS STUDY ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING FROM AERONAUTICS TO PETROLEUM ENGINEERING TO HARBOR MASTER TRAINING. WE ESTIMATE THAT MORE THAN HALF STUDY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. SMALL NUMBERS STUDY ACCOUNTING, COMPUTER SCIENCE, AND COMMUNICATIONS. MOST FREQUENT FIELD OF STUDY FOR THOSE PRIVATELY SPONSORED RATHER THAN GOVT. OR OIL COMPANY SPONSORED IS FLIGHT TRAINING. BIGGEST BLOCKS OF STUDENTS THAT HAVE COME TO EMBASSY'S ATTENTION IN LAST TWO YEARS ARE 53 COMMUNICATIONS STUDENTS SPONSORED BY GOVT. BROADCASTING CORP. (SEE REF. B), APPROX. 100 COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS SPONSORED BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND APPROX. 130 STUDENTS SPONSORED

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BY LIBYAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

3. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION STUDENTS ARE STUDYING A VARIETY OF SUBJECT, INCLUDING PHYSICS, NUCLEAR PHYSICS, AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING. THEY INCREASINGLY ARE SPREAD OUT AT A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS. LAST FIVE RETURNING STUDENTS SPONSORED BY ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION WERE STUDYING AT UNIV. OF MINNESOTA, TENNESSEE TECH. U., OREGON STATE, UCLA, AND UNIV. OF SOUTHERN CALIF. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT CASC ESTIMATES THERE ARE 300 LIBYANS IN US UNDER IBYAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION SPONSORSHIP, BUT THAT MANY ON PAPER ARE SPONSORED BY EDUCATION MINISTRY OR OTHER LARG AGENCIES.)
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